GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1183
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
FOOD PROCESSING OPPORTUNITIES IN BIHAR AND JHARKHAND REGION
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast opportunities of food processing are available in Bihar and Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to formulate any programme for investment in the development of these two regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) to (d): The potential for processed food sector in the country is immense in view of the abundance of the agro- horticultural produces. Based on raw material availability the scope for setting up food processing units of Lichi, Mangoes, Tomato, Chikoos, Bananas etc exists in the eastern region including Bihar & Jharkhand region. A Techno Economic feasibility study conducted by the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at the instance of JharkhandArea Autonomous Council has suggested that there is tremendous scope for setting up processing industries for fruit & vegetables in Chhotanagpur area.

Department of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating different plan schemes for implementation during the 9th plan for the development of processed food sector. Under these plan schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations/Voluntary Organizations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions, Our schemes are project oriented and not state orarea specific. The Department does not set up Food Processing units on its own directly.